37

DECLASSIFIED 9 LIBYA E

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

EXCISE

174 Diary Rec 9-17-69 799

CONFIDENTIAL 265

PAGE 01 BENGHA 00799 171733Z

45
ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, UCF 05, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JUNE 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00,

NSC 10, P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, PC 04, NIC 01,

NEA 13, E 15, IO 13, RSR 01, /162 W

036212

R 171344Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 265

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 12 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L BENGHAZI 799

SUBJECT: THE SEPTEMBER ONE REVOLUTION - TWO BENGHAZI RUMORS.

1. SINCE OUTBREAK OF REVOLUTION SEPTEMBER ONE, MANY RUMORS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN BENGHAZI AS TO WHY COUP TOOK PLACE AT THIS TIME AND WHO IS BEHIND IT. TWO STORIES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY PERSISTENT.

2. WE HAVE HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, BOTH LIBYAN AND FOREIGN, THAT JUNIOR OFFICERS BEHIND SEPTEMBER ONE REVOLUTION MOVED WHEN THEY DID TO FORESTALL A COUP BY SHALHI COLONELS. MOST DETAILED VERSION OF THIS STORY COMES FROM [redacted] 3 1 E B WHO SAYS THAT SENATE PRESIDENT ABDAL HAMID AL ABBAR TOLD HIM IN LATE AUGUST THAT KING HAD DECIDED TO ABDICATE IN FAVOR OF CROWN PRINCE ON SEPTEMBER 7. WHEN COL. ABDAL AZIZ SHALHI AND HIS SUPPORTERS HEARD OF THIS, THEY PLANNED COUP FOR SEPTEMBER 5 OR 6. JUNIOR OFFICERS THEREFORE DECIDED THEY MUST MOVE IMMEDIATELY, EVEN THOUGH THEIR PLANS WERE NOT COMPLETE. SOME LOCAL SOURCES ARE ALSO SPECULATING THAT CYDEF OFFERED NO OPPOSITION TO COUP BECAUSE KEY OFFICERS HAD BEEN BOUGHT OFF BY SHALHI AND WHEN COUP STARTED SEPTEMBER ONE THEY THOUGHT HE WAS BEHIND IT. REGARDLESS OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, IT IS CLEAR THAT COLONELS AND GENERALS WERE SO BUSY WATCHING EACH OTHER THEY FAILED TO KEEP AN EYE ON CAPTAINS AND MAJORS.

3. SECOND PERSISTENT STORY GROWS OUT OF FACT THAT PRACTICALLY

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BENGHA 00799 171733Z

ALL OFFICERS KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED IN COUP SO FAR ARE GRADUATES OF ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY (RMA), BENGHAZI. THIS HAS LED TO SPECULATION THAT SENIOR OFFICERS THERE MAY BE INVOLVED, BUT [redacted] BIEB BE KEEPING IN THE BACKGROUND. [redacted] IS CONVINCED THAT LT COL JALAL DAGHAILI, THE DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION AT THE RMA, PLAYED SOME ROLE IN THE COUP, DESPITE REPORTS THAT BOTH HE AND HIS BROTHER, COL FAWZI AL DAGHAILI, COMMANDER OF THE INFANTRY SCHOOL AT BARCE, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. BRITISH ALSO SPECULATE THAT RMA COMMANDER COL JUMA ABA HALAQAH MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEORY THAT SEPTEMBER ONE REVOLUTION WAS PRE-EMPTIVE COUP BY ANTI-SHALHI OFFICERS, THERE IS NONE TO SUPPORT IDEA THAT RMA OFFICERS ARE ENVOLVED. SUCH IDENTIFICATION IS AT BEST EDUCATED BIEB GUESS BY [redacted] WHO HAVE HAD NOTHING TO DO FOR LAST TWO WEEKS EXCEPT SPECULATE ABOUT WHICH OF THEIR FORMER LIBYAN ASSOIATES ARE NOW RUNNING THE COUNTRY.
PALMER

DECLASSIFIED